

PITCH IN FOR THE FALLS 2025

RULES & REGULATIONS

Tournament Description

- This recreational adult tournament is designed for teams that value fun and friendly competition. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials or other players will not be tolerated and may result in suspensions or forfeitures, as determined by the Tourney Coordinator. Teams are responsible for the behavior of their fans and any children present.

Team Composition

- **Roster:** Up to 12 players per team. At least 3 female players required. Roster must be finalized before the start of the tournament (7:00 am March 21, 2025).
- **Fielding:** A maximum of 10 players on defense; minimum of 8 required to start a game (3 women).
- **Gender Requirements:** Minimum of 3 female players on the field at all times.
- **Age Requirements:**
 - All players must be at least 18 years old
 - Players must present a valid photo ID if their eligibility is questioned. Failure to do so will render them ineligible for that game.
 - Eligibility checks may occur at any time before the game ends. Teams are encouraged to raise concerns before the game begins. A \$100 protest fee will be charged.
 - Players found to be ineligible may not participate in that game.

Game Format:

- **Innings:** Games will consist of 7 innings or 50-minutes, whichever occurs first. If the time limit is reached and the home team is trailing, they will be allowed to complete their at-bat.
- **Time Limit:** No new inning may start after 50 minutes.
- **Run Rule:** A 10-run mercy rule is in effect. If a team leads by 10 or more runs after 4 innings, the game ends.
- **Inning Run Limit:** Maximum of 5 runs per team per inning
- **Game Start:** Teams must be ready to play within 10 minutes of scheduled start time.
- **Home Run Rule:** Each team is allowed 3 out-of-the-park home runs. Inside-the-park home runs do not count toward this limit. Additional home runs will count as outs.
- **Batting Count:** Count will be 3 balls, 2 strikes.
- **Pace of Play:** Teams must hustle on and off the field between innings. Umpires are expected to manage the pace to ensure timely game completion.
- **Scorekeeping:** A scorekeeper assigned by tournament coordinator will record the official game score and results.

Batting Rules

- **Lineup:**
 - All players present may be included in the batting order, regardless of fielding status.
 - Teams may choose to bat their entire roster using a continuous batting order.
 - Players must stay in their original lineup position once set.
 - Gender alternation is required where possible (e.g., male-male-female).
 - No more than two batters of the same gender may hit consecutively unless the roster makes it unavoidable.
 - Late arrivals may be added to the end of the lineup if gender order is maintained, but only if the team has not gone through the whole lineup.
- **Walks:**
 - If a male batter is walked (intentional or not) with two outs, he will be awarded first and second base.
 - The following batter, if female, may choose to walk or bat, if male, must bat.
- **Courtesy Runners:** May be used for injured batters after they reach first base

Fielding and Substitutions

- **Players on the Field:** There must be 3 females on the field. (any position).
- **Substitutions:** Free defensive substitutions; batting order must remain unchanged.
- **Injuries:** Injured players may be skipped in the batting order without penalty if no substitute is available.

Equipment

- **Bats:** ASA/USA Softball approved bats only.
- **Balls:** Game will be played with a 12" ball.
- **Shoes:** Metal cleats are prohibited. Players may wear tennis, rubber sole, or plastic turf-type cleated shoes.
- **Uniforms:** Shirts with numbers (try to not have same numbers on one team).

Pitching and Base Running

- **Slow Pitch Only.**
- **Stealing:** Not allowed.
- **Base Coaches:** Teams may use first and/or third base coaches at their discretion. Coaches are optional.

Conduct and Sportsmanship

- **Umpire Communication:** Only the team manager or a designated player may communicate with the umpire. Any other player doing so will receive a team warning. A second offense by the same player results in ejection and possible further disciplinary action.
- **Respect:** All players must treat umpires, teammates, and opponents respectfully.
- **Prohibited Behavior:**

- Drugs, profanity, vulgarity, unnecessary roughness of any kind are not permitted. Players under the influence will be removed.
- No alcohol is to be brought on the premises of the softball complex.
- Beer is not permitted on the field or player benches.
- Smoking will not be allowed on the field or player benches.
- **Umpire Authority:** Umpire decisions are final. Protests must be filed formally with the Tournament Coordinator. A \$100 protest fee is required.
- **Community Standards:** To maintain a family-friendly atmosphere, the following consequences apply for alcohol, littering, vandalism, or abusive language:
 - **First Offense:** Verbal warning
 - **Second Offense:** Verbal warning and ejection from the park

Playoffs

- **Eligibility:** Players must be listed on the official roster.
- **Tiebreakers:**
 - Head-to-head record
 - Run differential
 - Coin toss

Dogs & Children at the Field

- We understand that many parents may need to bring their children to the softball field in order to participate in league games. However, please note that children must remain in the designated spectator area (e.g., bleachers or sidelines) with a parent or supervising adult at all times. If a child needs to use the restroom or leave the immediate area, they must be accompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians are fully responsible for supervising their children throughout the duration of the game. Field, dugout, and recreation equipment are strictly off-limits to children. Parks and Recreation is not liable for any injuries or damage resulting from lack of supervision.